

***Council Meeting
Borough of Leonia
November 21, 2005***

Council Present: *Mayor Laurence Cherchi, Councilwoman Dwarica,
Councilwoman Heveran ,Councilman LaBianco, Councilwoman
Mitrani, Councilman Puzzo, Council President Ryan*

Council Absent: *none*

Also Present: *Council-Elect Hawkins, Council-Elect Raucchi, Fran Lehmann,
Borough Clerk, David Russo, Borough Attorney, Victoria
Miragliotta, Borough Administrator*

Mayor Laurence Cherchi called the meeting to order.

Mayor Laurence Cherchi asked everyone to stand while Council President Ryan led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Cherchi pointed out the Fire Exits.

A discussion was held by the Governing Body regarding the interviews to be conducted in Closed Session. Councilwoman Heveran explained the process the Personnel and Finance Committee discussed the preliminary interview process.

OPEN MEETING STATEMENT

Conditions of the Open Meeting Act have been met by Notice placed on the Bulletin Board at Borough Hall and notices sent to the Official Newspaper.

Comments from the Public

No comments.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Personnel and Finance Committee –

Councilwoman Mitrani reported there will be interviews in Closed Session for the position of Construction Official. The Municipal Budget for 2006 is in progress. There will be a meeting of the Capital Budget for 2006.

Laws & Ordinances

No report

47
48 Police

49
50 Council President Ryan discussed the PEOSH complaint at Police headquarters on
51 November 10th. Councilman-Elect Hawkins gave a report on the exhaust system at the
52 Fire House.

53
54 Fire

55
56 No report.

57
58 Ambulance

59
60 No report.

61
62 Public Works

63 Council President Ryan noted for that there would be a pre-construction meeting for the
64 2005 Road Improvement Program. Council President Ryan also noted that there is an
65 extensive report from the Architects on the renovations of Borough Hall.

66
67 Real Estate and Insurance

68
69 No report

70
71 Borough Administrator

72
73 Borough Administrator Miragliotta reported that parts of the tree on the triangle appear
74 to be dead. The Shade Tree Commission looked at the tree and they would like to wait
75 until spring to recommend action. As a precaution the Borough Administrator had Fire
76 Prevention look at the tree. They did not think there would be a problem lighting the tree
77 but suggested having an expert look at the tree. The only other option would be to
78 purchase a tree and decorate it for the holidays. A discussion was held by the Governing
79 Body regarding the tree. All were in agreement to leave the tree as is and put the lights on
80 it.

81
82 Sylvan Park the twelve inch tubing has been installed and the six inch tubing will be
83 installed this week.

84
85 The Central Business District The Borough Administrator thanked the David Russo,
86 Borough Attorney for getting the work approvals moved along.

87
88 The Borough Administrator reported that the contract for the Police has been submitted
89 to their Attorney. There will be a meeting with the Capital Budget Committee on
90 Tuesday, November 9th.. Councilwoman Mitrani and the Borough Administrator met
91 with the Shade Tree Commission to discuss the different ways to resolve the sidewalk
92 issue. Two of the ways we are currently reviewing is having a sidewalk permit. If you

wish to repair or replace your sidewalk a permit would be required and the work reviewed so as to be in compliance with the ideology of the Borough. When the warning letter is sent out there will be a package included with recommended ways of making the repairs and a copy of the required permit. The Ambulance Corps made a recommendation regarding the generator. At that time we will have the DPW generator reviewed to see if it works as well. We had an issue with a gentleman who put up a fence on Borough property. He improved his property but put up a fence without permits. He was upset that he received a letter telling him to remove the fence. We wrote him a subsequent letter telling him that we would work with him and give him time to remove the fence. He has now written us back to take him to court. The fence is on Grand Avenue and Christie Heights. He also put up a shed and a retaining wall without permits, all of which are on Borough property. The Borough Administrator would like to turn the matter over to the Borough Attorney. The members of the Governing Body agreed. At the League a resolution was passed to increase the fines for overcrowding in apartments. Once it passes the legislature the Borough can also increase fines. The Borough Administrator has been working with PEOSH regarding the complaints at Police Headquarters. There have been no violations issued at this time.

Mayor

Mayor Cherchi reported on a meeting he attended in Englewood regarding a proposed billboard on 60 Cedar Lane. The applicant asked for a delay until February. Mayor Cherchi will keep the Council informed.

Special Bodies of the Borough

Councilwoman Mitrani reported that at the League of Municipalities Conference she had a table urging for reform in Police/Fire Arbitration.

RESOLUTIONS

Councilman LaBianco asked to have Resolution 05-261 and 262 pulled. Councilman LaBianco questioned who is using Storage USA. Council President Ryan said this may be the Police Department who has files stored off site. Council President Ryan questioned the uniform allowances for the Fire Department. The Borough Administrator explained this is set by criteria. Councilwoman Heveran explained that this is do to damage to clothing that is damaged at a scene and years of service on the Department. Councilman LaBianco would like to see the criteria.

Councilwoman Dwarica made a motion to approve Resolutions 05-261 (as amended), 05-263, 264, 266 seconded by Council President Ryan. Roll call vote; Councilperson Dwarica, Heveran, LaBianco Mitrani, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes. Resolutions approved.

Resolution 05-262 – Councilman LaBianco questioned a bill for engineering on 161 Leonia Avenue. The Borough Administrator explained this is escrow money paid out the trust fund. Councilwoman Dwarica made a motion to approve Resolution 05-262 seconded by Council President Ryan. Roll call vote; Councilperson Dwarica, Heveran,

Mitrani, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes. Councilman LaBianco voted no. Resolutions approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. DPW Generator - Mayor Cherchi reported that the generator was taken to the DPW when the Police/Fire Department had a new one installed. The generator was never connected. The generator should be checked to see if it works if it does it should be re-activated.
- b. Merchant Recycling – The issues with merchant recycling was discussed.
- c. Lakeview Avenue Speed Humps – Sgt. Carlson and Mr. Luglio reviewed the street and report will be forthcoming on the location of the speed humps.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Traffic Liaison to Police Traffic Liaison Councilwoman Mitrani would like a liaison to the traffic officer to inform him of the concerns that are brought to the Governing Body. Mayor Cherchi felt that this should be done by the Police Commission. The Police Commission will meet with Chief Ziegler regarding this issue.
- b. Website Committee membership issues – Council President Ryan reported that Bob Katz has resigned. The Website Committee would like to move Henning Schulzrinne to fill the unexpired term of Bob Katz. The Committee would like to appoint John Kendor to a fill Henning's unexpired term. The Governing Body asked Borough Attorney Russo to review and amend the ordinance so all the terms are staggered three year terms.

CORRESPONDENCE

Council President Ryan would like to concur with a member of the public, to include a low threshold of correspondence that is read into the record. The public would then have the opportunity to go to Borough Hall to look at it. Councilman Elect Hawkins questioned how it could be done? Mayor Cherchi stated that it would just say a letter from so and so. Councilman Elect Hawkins asked if it is meant to be correspondence to the Mayor and Council and the public? Mayor Cherchi responded that it would be only correspondence received. A discussion followed about the ability to put the information on the agenda.

Councilwoman Mitrani made a motion to go into Closed Session for interviews of Construction Official, seconded by Councilman Puzzo. All in favor none opposed.

184
185 Council President Ryan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Heveran.
186 All in favor none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 10:45PM
187
188 Respectfully submitted,
189
190 Fran Lehmann
191 Borough Clerk